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Letter dated 9 January 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Greece, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

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Annex

Note verbale dated 9 January 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

The Permanent Mission of Greece presents its compliments to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and has the honour to forward the enclosed report on actions being taken by the Government of Greece on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Reply of the Hellenic Republic to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (fight against terrorism)

Greece, long before the tragic events of 11 September, has been condemning all acts of terrorism, regardless of their origin or cause, as criminal and utterly unjustifiable.

The abhorrent terrorist attacks of September last against the United States and the bitter feeling of global insecurity deriving therefrom, led the Greek Government to unreservedly join the international community in the struggle to eradicate the scourge of terrorism, firmly advocating that the fight against terrorism should be a twofold approach by dealing with both the terrorist acts and their perpetrators, together with the causes of these phenomena.

Greece has so far substantially contributed to the emergency planning and the operational response of the action undertaken by all International and Regional fora dealing with terrorism.

More precisely, Greece concurred to NATO's decision that the attacks of September 11 against the U.S.A. be covered by Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and, consequently, be regarded as an attack against all NATO Allies, while the U.S. has the incontestable right to defend itself, as emanating from the international law, the UN Charter and the Security Council's Resolutions.

Greece, has constructively participated in the elaboration and the adoption by the European Union of a General Plan of Action as well as of specific resolutions of the European Council on 21.09.2001, 19.10.2001, 10.12.2001 and 18.12.2001, shaping common policies against terrorism.

Within the Council of Europe, Greece is also committed to contribute to the important task of preparing the necessary revision of the European Convention for the suppression of terrorism (Strasbourg, 27.01.1977).

Being a Mediterranean country lying at the crossroads of three continents with a diversity of religions and civilizations and firmly believing that terrorism is a threat to every human being, regardless of its nationality, religion or origin, Greece has proposed a series of initiatives in the framework of the various Mediterranean fora, aiming, not only, at strengthening the counter - terrorism cooperation among the countries in the region, but also at bringing together intellectuals from different civilizations and religions with the scope to dissolve preconceptions of the past.

Hence, the Government of the Hellenic Republic has followed a comprehensive approach on the issue of terrorism, as part of its contribution to the international campaign. Active participation in the coordinated efforts of all the relevant International fora, constructive synergies at regional level and enhancement and harmonization of the national legislation pertaining to terrorism and organized crime, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001).

In the administrative field, Greece has taken the following steps, in order to better coordinate the various public and semi-public sectors of the administration, responsible for the action to be taken, to accelerate the decision making with regard to the legislative process:

- An ad hoc Coordination Office has been established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed by a senior career diplomat, tasked with the oversight of the inter-ministerial coordination and coupled by a Task Force Group, responsible for the analysis of the 1373(2001) UNSCR and the identification of the provisions that may need further legislative action.

- At the Ministry of Justice, an ad hoc Task Force Group has been established with the mandate to draft a new law on the suppression of terrorism, including the criminalization of all terrorist acts as well as completing or amending previous legislation on the matter.

It is to be noted that Greece is also committed to incorporate in its internal legislation the following legal texts:

- The EU Framework – Decision on terrorism by the end of the year 2002.
- The EU Framework – Decision on the arrest warrant by the end of the year 2003.
- The EU Framework – Decision on freezing of funds or of other financial assets.
- The EU Council Regulation on combating against financing of terrorism, as well as on freezing of funds or other financial assets (points lc and ld of 1373 UNSCR).
- The EU Directive on money laundering.
- The FATF eight Decisions on financing of terrorism and money laundering.

In response to the questionnaire included in the relevant "Guidance" letter of CTC' s President, the following measures have been taken or have been streamlined.

Operative Paragraph 1

Regarding the prevention of the financing of terrorism, specific recommendations have been addressed to the competent Ministries of Justice and Finance, so that this issue be adequately covered by the comprehensive Law, currently being drafted in pursuance of art. 7 of the Law 2331/1995 on "the prevention and suppression of the legalization of the crime proceeds" (money laundering).

Furthermore, Greece is committed to incorporate in its internal legislation, by June 2002, the eight Special Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), adopted at the extraordinary Plenary Meeting in Washington on 29 and 30 October 2001 pertaining to the inclusion of the offence of the financing of terrorism in the predicate offences, the proceeds of which are considered as "money laundering" assets.

Apart from the above, Greece, as a member of the European Union is committed to all the legal instruments, recently issued by the Council of the E.U. pertaining to the freezing of the availability of assets, funds and resources of persons or legal entities directly or indirectly implicated to terrorist activities.

Operative Paragraph 2

The Greek Ministry of Justice, by virtue of Law 2928 of 27-06-2001 "on the protection of the citizens from criminal acts committed by criminal organizations", has proceeded to the necessary modification of the provisions of the Greek Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, aiming at covering all issues in question.

The Council of the Ministers of Justice and Internal Affairs of the European Union, at their meeting of 6-7/10/2001, adopted a Framework-Decision on the combating of terrorism. The Greek competent authorities have already commenced the appropriate adjustment of the internal legislation to the said Decision, to be concluded in due course.

Greece actively participates in the intelligence network for the exchange of relative information, that has been created in the framework of the European Union, including regular meetings of senior officials responsible with antiterrorist activities and with the trafficking of weapons and explosives. Greece has also contributed to the enhancement of cooperation at the regional level, namely in the S.E. Europe and the Mediterranean region, by signing a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements, setting up communication channels for early warning and exchange of information of illicit activities.

Moreover, as a state-party to the Schengen Agreement and its operational Information System, Greece fully respects and applies all the provisions of the Agreement dealing with the circulation of third-country citizens.

After the terrorist attacks in the U.S.A. the security and protection measures were reviewed at national level and additional such measures were taken, concerning all sensitive targets, either domestic or foreign. At the same time, the security measures in all entry points and the border controls have been increased while contingency plans in case, of potential development of crisis, have been drawn up.

Effective controls are applied also on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents and additional measures have been taken to prevent counterfeiting, forgery, or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents. Specifically, in view of the establishment of a new central service of the Hellenic Police for the issuance of the new Hellenic passports, the Hellenic Police Laboratory is setting the technical requirements in order to achieve the most effective protection of the new passport from forgery. The said Laboratory, as the National Contact Point with INTERPOL, EUROPOL and foreign forensic laboratories and law enforcement authorities, maintains a constant flow of information and exchange of experiences, leading to more effective measures of detection and suppression of counterfeiting and forgery. Moreover, the Central Unit of the PHOTOPHONE system, situated in the Hellenic Laboratory and connected with the 19 main passport control points of Greece, is kept constantly posted by the staff of the passport control checks about the travel documents presented on a daily basis and receives all documents of disputed authenticity for examination. A serious effort is currently on train to supply all the passport control check points in the Hellenic territory with the most technologically sophisticated forgery and counterfeiting detection devices.

Special attention is being given by the competent authorities to the asylum seekers and refugees, while all cases are being scrutinized meticulously, particularly those originating from countries that either encourage terrorist activities or harbour suspected perpetrators.

Operative Paragraph 3

With regard to international cooperation, Greece actively participates in the planning, operational and other information exchange mechanisms (such as antiterrorist networks, trafficking of weapons and explosives, etc.) of the E.U. and

of all the international and Regional Organizations dealing with terrorism. Greece has also strengthened cooperation at national, regional and international levels, having signed a number of bilateral and multilateral Police Cooperation Agreements, providing, inter alia, for cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Greece is a state-party to the following United Nations Conventions against terrorism:

1. Convention on Offences and certain other acts committed on board aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963.
2. Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970.
3. Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971.
4. Convention on the Preventive and Punishment of Crimes against internationally protected persons, including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973.
5. International Convention against the taking of hostages, New York, 17 December 1979.
6. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Vienna, 3 March 1980.
7. Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts of violence a airports serving international civil aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation, done at Montreal on September 1971 and signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988.
8. Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988.
9. Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988.
10. Convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection, Montreal, 1 March 1991.

while the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings of 15 December 1997 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 9 December 1999, are currently in the process of ratification in the Greek Parliament.

Greece is also a state-party to the European Convention on Terrorism of the Council of Europe (27 January 1977).